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Bremerton Sun

Politicized CFC contributions lag

By Debby Norman
Sun Staff Writer

Donations to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, which is being boycotted by local unions, are running far behind the 1981 drive, according to Bremerton Metal Trades Council President Larry Ferlaak.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's house organ, the *Salute*, reported Friday that donations totaled \$41,760.48, or 14.2 percent of this year's shipyard goal.

The goal is \$295,000. But Ferlaak said that at the same point in last year's campaign, the PSNS part of the drive had reached 59 percent of its goal.

Bruce Andrae, shipyard public affairs officer, acknowledged that this year's CFC donations have been projected to fall

behind last year's.

"But last year was a record year," Andrae said.

In last year's record-breaking CFC campaign, PSNS employees donated \$344,299, exceeding the goal of \$280,000.

Joseph E. Kieta, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee of the Kitsap-North Mason CFC, has attributed the lag to the union boycott of CFC.

"... Our CFC campaign could be a total failure for the first time in 19 campaigns," Kieta wrote in a letter to Donald J. Devine, head of the federal Office of Personnel Management.

Devine, a Reagan appointee, initiated the controversial policy changes which politicized the CFC drive and prompted the union boycott. Kieta's Oct. 15 letter was the second in three days written to protest the recent extension of politically oriented groups from the national to the local CFC.

"Approximately 70 percent of all eligible to participate in our local campaign are unit members of those unions boycotting our campaign," Kieta wrote.

"After two weeks into this CFC, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, the largest contributor into the Kitsap-North Mason CFC, is only 15 percent of its goal... (compared to) 59 percent after two weeks into the previous campaign."

CFC began Oct. 4 and will end Nov. 12.

The charity drive hadn't even begun when the county's major labor groups representing federal employees announced that they would boycott the drive. The unions acted in protest of Devine's inclusion of political groups in CFC for the first time in the drive's history.

Union leaders were especially irked at the inclusion of the anti-union National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund among

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the recipients of CFC money under the "National Service Agencies" category.

But OPM now is forcing the CFC to add political groups to the local CFC roster, too, according to Ferlaak.

OPM has ordered two such groups, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Foundation Inc. and the conservative Pacific Legal Foundation, added to the local CFC list, Ferlaak said.

OPM overturned a decision by the Local Federal Coordinating Committee not to allow the groups, Ferlaak said. Traditionally, the coordinating committee has determined which groups will be placed on the local CFC roster, in line with federal regulations. Ferlaak said OPM now is usurping that role.

Kieta is appealing both decisions. In letters to Devine dated Oct. 13 and Oct. 15, he noted that neither group has a local office, which is one of the criteria for a group to be placed on the CFC roster.

"Seattle, Wash., was listed as the local contact, but Seattle is not part of the

Kitsap-North Mason local community," Kieta's letter noted.

In addition, he said, the campaign's literature already has been printed and it would be difficult to add the two organizations' names to 30,000 CFC brochures.

Meanwhile, an alternative charity effort supported by the unions appears to be moving slowly.

Ferlaak said this morning he has had about 50 "allotment" forms for the United Way campaign returned to his office. But union officials supporting the United Way drive haven't really started pushing it yet, he added.

The allotment effort was started as a way for union supporters to bypass the CFC and give directly to the United Way by filling out "allotment" or payroll deduction forms.

The United Way receives most of the local CFC money, but United Way officials have voiced fears that this year's United Way drive might be hurt by the CFC boycott.

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